GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4362
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000
INTERNATIONAL FIBRE OPTICAL NETWORK BY VSNL
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited has any proposal for International fibre optical network;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status;

(c) whether the said network will go across Mumbai and Bangalore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the network is beneficial to the people of Mumbai and Bangalore cities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes Sir. VSNL received a proposal `Project Oxygen` in 1998 from a company called M/s. CTR Group Limited of USA.

(b) VSNL had signed a non-binding MOU with M/s. CTR Group Limited fro participating in the Project.Business plan of the proposal is yet to be examined.

(c) The `Project` envisages an initial landing point at Mumbai only. The possibility of further expansion in the future to other cities cannot be ruled out at this stage.

(d) Commercial viability of the business plan, the cost implications and the design details including the landing points are yet to be firmed up.

(e) Since business plan is yet to be formed up, the benefits accruing to the people of Mumbai & Bangalore from the `Project` cannot be quantified.